SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, small and marginal farmers are being given a subsidy of 50 per cent with regard to premium for the payment of crop insurance. In view of the acute drought conditions that are prevailing, I would like to know whether the Government can relax these conditions and make all the drought-affected areas eligible to get subsidy. That is my first question.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has made a suggestion about the drought relief. We are looking at drought relief measures. We will look into that question also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Rail network in NER

*452. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand rail network in different parts of NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A number of new line and gauge conversion projects are in progress in the North Eastern Region. The details of these projects along with the status and targets wherever fixed are given in the Statement. (*See* below). As per the extant policy, funds to the tune of 10% of budgetary support are to be provided for North Eastern Region. Efforts are being made to get additional resources from Non-Lapsable Pool and mobilization of non-budgetary resources.

Statement

Details of new line and gauge conversion projects in NER alongwith their status and targets fixed for completion

Sl. No.	Project	Year of inclusion in budget	Month of receiving clearances	Kms	Anticipated cost	Outlay expected to end of 2001-02	Budget Outlay 2002-03	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	NEW LINES							
1	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	2000-01		245	733	2.02	8	Final location survey is in progress and report is expected to be available by March, 2003.
2	Harmuti-Itanagar (Suppl.)	1996-97	Feb-97	22	156	0.04	4	Survey for an alternative alignment at the request of State Govt. from Bedati to Itanagar (45 km) has been taken up. The work would be taken up once alignment is finalised.
3	Diphu-Karong PH I	1997-98	Sep.-98	123	1600	0.01	4	On the request of Govt. of Manipur, survey for Jiribam-Imphal as an alternative alignment has been completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								The report is under examination.
4	Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank Line	1997-98	Sep-97	46	1500	3.03	40	Final location survey has been completed. Part estimate for earthwork, land acquisition has beensanctioned. Papers for land acquisition have been submitted to State Govt. Contract for supply of Boulders, approach road and 4 major bridges has been awarded and work of boulder supply and approach road are in progress. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges etc. are under finalisation.
5	Kumarghat-Agartala	1996-97	Jul.-96	109	895	200.94	80	Possession of 775.7 hectares of land out of total of 789.50 hectares has been taken and land acquisition in balance portion is in progress. Earthwork and

								bridgework in the entire length are in progress. Kumarghat-Manu (21 kms) is targeted for completion during 2002-2003 where track linking has been completed.
6	Dudhnoi-Depa	1992-93		15.5	22.33	0.52	0.01	Land acquisition papers were submitted to State Govt. in July, 1997. However, Meghalaya Govt. has not made available the land so far due to resistance from local people. Work on this project would be taken up only after the land becomes available.
7	Jogighopa-Guwahati	1983-84		142	571.7	556.7	5	Completed and commissioned.
GAUGE CONVERSION								
8	Katakhal-Bhairabi (Suppl.)	1997-98	Feb. 99	84	200	0.0001	1	The work would be taken up once Landing. Silchar is in advance stage of completion.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongagaon	1997-98	Feb. 99	417	523.82	277.49	122	Earthwork, bridge work and other works are in progress. Mega block for New Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road has been taken from 1.12.2002 onwards. Work is planned for completion during 2003-04.
10	Lumding-Silchar with MM to extension from Badarpur to Baraigram	1996-97	Jul.-96	248	1596.7	114.65	70	324.33 hec. of land out of 365 hec. between Lungting to Ditokcherra have been acquired. Earthwork and bridges are in progress. Contract for one tunnel awarded.
11	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers	1993-94		628	758	716.8	1.99	Completed and commissioned.

The month of clearance is given in case of works which have been included in the budget with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances.